

No. 26, dated 31st July 1933, regarding equipment of human labour with mechanical power, will the Government be pleased to show the results of their assertion 'I can make an attempt'?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Machinery to the extent of 4,127 H. P. are at present being used in the State, for works which before their advent were being done to a small extent by manual labour. This does not include the power used in motor cars and boats for transportation purposes.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was not this much of power being utilised even before this assurance of the greater utilization of the machine power?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—When I collected this information I estimated that 4,127 H. P. is used at present.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it in any way in increase of what it was already?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I did not make the attempt to find out.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know what further possibilities we have in this line?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I cannot say definitely.

License fee for motor boats—raising of.

207. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to Question No. 29, dated 31st July 1933, regarding the raising of a license fee, will the Government state whether in Travancore the original license fee of the motor boats was not Rs. 4 per ton, whether they did not subsequently double it to Rs. 8 and whether it was not in copying the Travancore rates that our Government have arrived at their present rates?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Cochin Canal Department have no information of the original rates that prevailed in Travancore. The prevailing rates are based on a tri-party agreement between Cochin, Travancore and the Madras Governments.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Since answering this question was it not kindly admitted by the Hon'ble Member for Engineering that the rate was actually raised by the Travancore Darbar?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I do not remember. I do not know even now that the rates in Travancore have been raised.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know Sir, whether any attempt was made before answering this question to find out whether such a raising was effected in Travancore?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I looked into my files but could not find any.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Whether they have conducted an independent enquiry or not?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I did not correspond with the Travancore Government; but I only looked into my file.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is there any harm to correspond with the Travancore Government? If actually it was raised there, then this point would be in favour of this question.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I can write and ask them.

Municipal toll on boats.

208. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to Question No. 31, dated 31st July 1933, regarding Municipal tolls on the boats, will the Government be pleased to state how 'such conveniences as roads, lighting, Sanitation and other Municipal services' can form a justification for taxing boats and boat owners who are already taxed in many other ways and also say whether the jetties and wharves in question belong to the P. W. D. or the Municipality?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—As the boats touch the Municipal jetties the Municipal Regulation authorises the collection of the landing dues. The fact that the boat owners have to pay other dues elsewhere is no reason for the Municipality to refrain from collecting their legitimate dues. The jetties in question have been recognised as Municipal jetties for the purpose.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know whether it originally belonged to the Public Works Department, namely, wharves and bridges; or whether it belonged to the Municipality or was it transferred later on?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There was a notification recently allowing the Municipalities to collect the landing fees on boats touching the jetties at Mattancheri and Ernakulam.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Did the P. W. D. protest?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It was a Government order.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Before that notification, how was the thing going on?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Municipal dues were not collected at Ernakulam and Mattancheri and that was pointed out by the Municipal Council and Government ordered that the landing dues should be collected.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—How any months or years before this notification?